

63.9

M.C.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ELEPHANT GRASS



:: (*Napier Fodder or Wonder Grass*) ::

THE NEW INTRODUCTION THAT IS GOING TO
PROVE VALUABLE FOR THE DRY, HOT DESERT
COUNTRY and the SANDY WASTES of AUSTRALIA

ELEPHANT or Napier Grass is a drought and frost resisting perennial, and under certain conditions, is undoubtedly the heaviest producing perennial in existence. It is palatable to stock either fed green, or cut and made into hay, or as ensilage. When intended to be used for hay, cut the plant at a height of from three to four feet before the hard canes mature. Elephant Grass will grow on most soils and on account of its remarkable adaptability, is likely to be of considerable value in many parts of Australia. It should be suitable for the Mallee and drier parts of the northern area of this State, but particularly for the dry, arid regions of the centre of Australia, where irrigation is out of the question. Elephant Grass is not suited by damp situations which cause the plant to wilt and die, but it will respond readily enough to irrigation. There are three means of propagation—by seed, rooted slips, and by cuttings. Sow the seed in a well-prepared seed bed in October or early November, and transplant when the seedlings are about 12 inches high. As the plants grow to a very large size, it is advisable to allow from six to eight feet between each specimen. Further propagation can then be made either by means of suckers or slips. Elephant Grass makes good ensilage when mixed with either Maize or Sorghums.



Seed
only
available
in
Packets,
PRICE
2/-per Pkt

ELEPHANT GRASS does not make the best of hay, and when cut in the Summer, at any rate, it is most suitable for either green fodder or ensilage. Elephant Grass does not appear to be suited to southern parts of Victoria but is well worthy of a trial on dry, hot desert country, where nothing else will thrive. Remember that the natural habitat of Elephant Grass is on the desert plains of Rhodesia, Africa. Cuttings may be taken from first year plants in May or June, placed slantwise in a prepared bed, covering about two thirds of the cutting.

If kept moist and shaded, but not sufficiently damp enough to rot, the cuttings will root and make fine plants for putting out the following November or December.

Under ordinary conditions the first cutting of Elephant Grass may be had by the end of January. Later on in the autumn further cuttings may be obtained.

Analysis of Elephant Grass

Water	61.81
Ether Extract	0.29
Protein	2.92
Carbohydrates	17.29
Woody Fibre	14.77
Ash	2.92

BRUNNINGS

Victoria Seed Warehouse, 64 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.

Australia

